

FREMONT CABLE ACCESS CONTRACT RENEWAL COMMITTEE
JULY 17, 2007
MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Committee on July 24, 2007

Attendees:

Brande McClean- Chairman
Peter Bearse
Tom McGall
Larry Morse
Neal Janvrin
Warren Yee
Keith Stanton

Linda Stanton- taking notes

Meeting came to order at 7:31PM at the Safety Complex. There were 16 invited guests of several Boards, Committees and groups attending.

OLD BUSINESS;

Since there were so many guests, it was decided to skip the reading of the minutes of the July 10th meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

The members of the Committee were introduced. There was a short discussion on what should/could be shown on a community channel. Town Meetings, emergency announcements, and groups in Town could tape events and bring them to Town Hall for approval. Someone suggested that no advertisements or political announcements would be allowed. Bob Rydeen said that he was surprised that these things are not already being shown on channel 22. He said that people who can not make it to these meetings would be more informed if these meetings/events were broadcast. Mbr. Bearse told the group that the Committee wanted to hear from everyone about what they want to see broadcast. Peg Pinkham asked what the name of the committee was. Chairman McClean gave her our Committee name. Aia Mahoney asked who initiated this Committee. Mbr. Stanton said that the current cable contract is about to expire and that the Committee had to be formed to negotiate a new one with Comcast. Pinkham said that School District does not allow any 'images' of students to be published (print or broadcast) without written, signed 'waivers' from their parents. Mbr. Stanton asked if this was a law. Pinkham said that it was a School 'rule'. She said that all the signatures of the parents would have to be received for any tape to be played. This, she said, would be a very complicated task requiring a lot of time and that some parents might not sign the waiver. That would mean that none of the tape could be played.

Comcast Rep. Jay Sommers said, 'The world has changed'. He cautioned about any copyright violations. Janice O'Brien said that the Boy Scouts have an 'image policy' that forbids the broadcast of Scouts pictures. Mbr. McGall said that it would have been good to see the Glen Oakes opening on TV. Sommers said that the tour of the vernal pools in Fremont would have worked well on channel 22. Mbr. Bearse suggested that a poll of the Schools priorities be done.

At 8:02PM, a 5 minute recess was approved for refreshments.

8:09PM- Meeting called back to order.

Matthew Thomas questioned the qualifications of Mbr. Morse and his validity on the Committee. Mbr. Morse told Thomas that he was a resident of Fremont and qualified to be on the Committee. One member of the audience asked if community announcements were allowed. Several members answered that, yes they would be allowed. Thomas asked if Republican and Democrat groups would be allowed to broadcast on channel 22. Chairman McClean and Mbr. Bearse said that they should, along with Libertarians and Independents. Mbr. Morse said; That would be up to the future 'Cable Committee' and the B.O.S. Mbr. Bearse asked if there are any prohibitions of groups. Sommers said; that if someone is rejected from playing a tape they could file a law suit, win and put on their show. He said that when programming is too narrowly defined it can be challenged in court. Mbr. Morse said that if a Cable Committee rejected a tape it could be appealed to the B.O.S. Mbr. Bearse said; The real promise here is to open up information and debate and look at what other Towns do. Pinkham said that the School has 'Candidates Night', can that be broadcast? No answer was given. Mbr. Bearse said, So only public meetings can be played? Neil Rowland stated that, other Towns have the 'Producer' (the person who makes the tape) sign a liability waiver which exempts the Town from any liability. Mbr. McGall asked Peter Bolduc how live broadcast of Selectmen's meetings could be done when sometimes they meet at 'Turners Dam' at 4PM then return to Town Hall at 6PM. Selectmen require that the meeting 'in it's entirety' be played. They combine these 'remote site' visits with the regular meeting. How can you play the taped part before the 'live' part? Carlsen said that someone would have to follow them with a camera and play it before the 'live' part started. Mbr. Stanton said; that other Towns don't do it that way. Epping broadcasts **all** meetings that are held **in** Town Hall-**live**. Chairman McClean showed a Local Channel schedule from the Carriage Towne News for Hampstead. They have several live broadcasts per week and many taped ones. Mbr. Morse said that Atkinson does not tape **any** of their meetings. Everything is broadcast live. Bolduc asked, How/where are we going to store these tapes? Mbr. McGall said that Chester broadcasts 24/7 and that there are Military shows and cooking shows on their

channel. Mbr. Morse said that all public meetings are public information. Matthew Thomas said that he would like to see all tapes of special events saved and given to the Historical Society because of their historical value. He asked; Who has control of these tapes? Mbr. Stanton said; That depends on who made the tape and paid for the tape. If a tape was made by and paid for by a citizen, it would belong to them. If the Town made the tape and paid for the tape it would belong to them. Either way, you could tape it yourself at home. Carlsen asked about the survey that Comcast did. Meredith Bolduc said that maybe the Town should do a survey. Thomas asked how much it would cost the Town. Chairman McClean said; that is one of the things we must find out.

Mbr. McGall said that the Selectmen have declared that they do not want to spend **any** taxpayer money for a local access channel. Mbr. Stanton said that anyone could sponsor a warrant article to fund it. Carlsen asked, When is the Public Hearing? Mbr. Bearse said, that date has not been set yet, people are busy during the summer. Meredith Bolduc said; Comcast will benefit from this contract- tell them to do another survey!

Neil Rowland said that telephone surveys are no good. People don't answer.

Jay Sommers said, This is an accurate survey.

Lori Holmes asked; How accurate?

Sommers- We do this in a lot of places.

It was brought up that there are 1671 homes in Fremont. 1267 are subscribers of Comcast. The Comcast survey in 2006 contacted 250 households. 220 responded to the survey.

Peter Bolduc reported that there is only one street in Fremont that is not Comcast wired.

Aia Mahoney said that she was contacted. They asked her if she would pay 10 cents more per month for a local access channel. She told them, NO.

Chair McClean made a motion to adjourn. McGall and Stanton seconded. All voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Submitted by:
Linda Stanton